

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

PORTABLE NETWORK ENCRYPTION KEYS

5 A portable storage device, for example a secure smart card, contains network  
identification information for a processing unit that is connectable to a data  
communications network, which processing unit includes a device reader for reading  
the portable storage device. The portable storage device includes storage and an  
access controller. The storage holds a network identity for the processing unit and at  
least one encryption key. The access controller is operable to control access to the  
10 storage by implementing key-key encryption. An embodiment of the invention thus  
provides a medium not only for storing a network identity for processing unit, but also  
for other secure information such as an encryption key associated therewith. The  
processing unit is operable to access a secure portion of the storage of the portable  
storage device by supplying a request key to the access controller of the portable  
15 storage device, and, in response to receipt of an access key from the access controller,  
to send an encrypted command to access the content of the storage of the portable  
storage device. In response to the return of an access key, the processing unit can be  
operable to use the access key to encrypt a command for access to a secure storage in  
the portable storage device.

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Fig. 12